



# Gearing Up For Your Transitions

## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

### *You & Your Community*

*Special Thanks to the Northern Virginia Housing Alliance for allowing use and an adaptation of their Lesson Plans - "There Is No Place Like Home."*

Define community to create foundation for lesson plans 2 through 5

#### **LESSON 1**

##### **I. Activity 1 - Define Your Community** (30 minutes)

- Lead students through a discussion of what makes up their community. Help them define the different aspects of what is critical for a community to 'work'.
- Begin to draw a rough community infrastructure on the white board, as you lead the students in discussion add to the sketch.
  - ❖ Start with a few roads and the school, add other schools
  - ❖ Add restaurants: McDonalds Applebee's
  - ❖ Grocery stores
  - ❖ Shopping & Businesses: malls, Toys R Us, Target, Wal-Mart, card store, bank, barber shop, furniture store
  - ❖ Emergency & public services: police, fire, community center, YMCA, park, homeless shelter, Red Cross, food bank, library, hospital
  - ❖ Houses: include townhouses, single family homes, apartments & condos, shelter
  - ❖ Metro/ bus stops
  - ❖ Churches
- Finally, discuss the people in town: teacher, principal, doctor, dentist, nurse, grocery clerk, waiter/waitress, hairstylist, firefighter, executive secretary, cashier at Wal-Mart, car salesman, radio disc jockey, garbage man, swimming pool cleaner, mail man, etc. Ask what parents or relatives do for jobs to generate ideas of people in the community.
- Write a 5 minute journal entry on what surprised you about our community discussion.

##### **II. Activity 2 - You and Your Community** (20 minutes)

- Have students create a list about what they like about their community. Teacher/Facilitator can start if needed.
  - ❖ Examples: Favorite hair stylist, grocery store shopped at forever, favorite park, community/movie theatre.
- Narrow Scope – What do you like about your Neighborhood?
  - ❖ Examples: Neighbors check mail, friends, kids come over to play, school, parties
- Like about your House? Like about your Room?
- Take a moment and imagine if all those things were taken away... affordable housing is not just about "a house," it's about how the community works together.
- Write a five minute journal entry on what you would do if you had to move away from your community.